



Congratulations Moab for your Green Power Leadership Award!

by Edwin R. Stafford, Cathy L. Hartman, and Christine Watson

Congratulations to Mayor Dave Sakrison and the City of Moab for being honored by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Department of Energy with the 2003 Green Power Leadership Award for their commitment to renewable energy and energy conservation. Mayor Sakrison was also recognized as a champion for green power last October at the Utah Wind & Solar Energy Conference in Salt Lake City. Moab was the first Utah city to become an EPA Green Power Partner through its participation in Utah Power's Blue Sky wind energy program. Remarkably, Salt Lake City and Park City have followed Moab's lead, sparking further growth for green energy in Utah.

Through a community challenge campaign, the City of Moab has asked its citizens to support renewable energy, and to date, about 10 percent of Moab's residents and business owners participate in Blue Sky. Moab's pledge to renewable energy and efficiency programs is destined to pay off both for the environment and the city's bottom line.

Renewable energy is a natural for Moab. The city recognizes that its world-renown outdoor recreation and tourist industries rely on the quality of its red rock canyons and pristine natural resources. About 95 percent of Utah's electricity comes from coal-fired generation plants, and it is easy to forget that Utah's growing energy demands could threaten the integrity of Moab's environment and scenic vistas.

Subscribers of Utah Power's Blue Sky program pay \$1.95 for each block of 100 kilowatt-hours of wind energy that are added to the power supply grid each month. This premium funds the construction of wind parks, and Utah Power is hoping to add 5-10 megawatts of wind power capacity in Utah to support local Blue Sky participants. Moab buys about 60 blocks of wind power each month to cover 50 percent of the city's energy consumption, paying about \$1,400 annually. The city, however, audited the energy use in its facilities and is evaluating alternative en-

ergy and efficiency measures that ultimately should cover the costs for participating in Blue Sky and eventually save the city money as well.

When Salt Lake City combined its Blue Sky wind power purchases with energy efficiency measures (e.g., replacing energy-guzzling appliances and incandescent lights with Energy Star-certified fixtures and compact fluorescent bulbs), the city reduced its annual energy bill by thousands of dollars. Moab's smart consideration of geothermal heating and cooling as well as a solar backup system for the new city hall building will require upfront investment, but will provide future returns of significantly reduced energy costs over the life of the building.

Why should others in Moab join to support Blue Sky? For businesses, combining Blue Sky wind purchases with energy efficiency could result in similar bottom line benefits. Moreover, communicating publicly their involvement with Blue Sky enhances their images among environmentally-aware tourists who come to experience Moab's picturesque wonders and mountain bike trails. For home owners, participation in Blue Sky for less than the price of a cup of coffee each month is an investment in clean air and helps build a cleaner energy infrastructure for future generations.

Moab has set the green energy standard for the state. Last month, Park City launched its own renewable energy challenge, and Mayor Dana Williams has vowed to overtake Moab's lead by encouraging more of his city's residents and businesses to join Blue Sky. At the Utah Wind & Solar Energy Conference, Mayor Sakrison was unable to attend and Mayor Williams accepted the award for him by saying, "I am accepting this award on behalf of Mayor Dave, but next year, I will be taking it from him!" Such city challenges send a clear message that Utahns want clean, renewable energy to help secure their future.

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